

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: NY CCoC		CoC #: NY 600
CoC Representative: Alyson Zikmund		Title: Director of Planning, Development and Grants, NYC Department of Homeless Services
Phone/Email: 212-361-0575; azikmund@dhs.nyc.gov		
Person Completing this Plan: Adam Wawrynek		Title: SSVF Program Director, SUS
Phone/Email: 347-226-9019 x4363 awawrynek@sus.org		

1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group: Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: NYC CCoC Veterans Task Force	
Principle Members	Affiliation
Julie Irwin	VA VISN 3
Alyson Zikmund	NYC Department of Homeless Services
Nicole Branca	Supportive Housing Network of New York
Jessica Katz	NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Dev.
Craig Retchless	NYC Human Resources Administration
Kristin Miller	Corporation for Supportive Housing
Brian Bardell	Volunteers of America
Tori Lyon	Jericho Project
George Nashak	HELP USA
Brett Morash	Services for the UnderServed
Lori Sutton	NYC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs
Jason Hansman	Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Maureen Italiano	Institute for Community Living
Malik Hutchinson	Samaritan Village
Wendy McClinton	Black Veterans for Social Justice
Colette Rodgers	New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)
Karen Fuller	VA NY Harbor Healthcare System
Latonya Heyward	VA James J. Peters Medical Center

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The CoC Veterans Task Force Executive Committee meets at a minimum of a monthly basis to coordinate re-housing services to Veterans within the continuum. The progress of coordinated assessments and updates on Veterans' housing placements are reviewed, as are options for troubleshooting and overcoming barriers associated with securing permanent housing.

The NYC CCoC is actively participating in the Mission: Home campaign and Mayor's Challenge to end Veteran homelessness. Coordination between DHS and CoC members to identify and assess every homeless Veteran is underway, with the intention of increasing human resources to better capture homeless and at-risk Veterans at the point of initial entry into shelter, diversion units, local Homebase prevention programs, and drop-centers. Planning continues to best-leverage surge funds to increase these human resources and maximize current housing stock to limit the length of stay of Veteran households in shelter, and divert as many families as possible to alternative permanent housing solutions and supportive services to avoid the onset of new episodes of homelessness.

The SSVF grantees will meet with the Department of Homeless Services' staff and representatives from VHA on a weekly basis to track the progress of homeless enrollments and placements specifically from the 30th Street shelter. Progress will be tracked weekly by both SSVF staff and by DHS for those Veterans triaged at that location.

3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography: Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge"), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

Grantee Agency Name	Grant Amount	Total Annual Projected Households	Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing	% of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing
BVSJ	\$1,811,086	324	227	70
ICL	\$1,282,140	300	210	70
HELP USA	\$1,547,433	315	220	70
HELP USA	\$2,000,000	330	231	70
Jericho Project	\$1,274,437	225	158	70
SUS	\$1,134,348	190	133	70
SUS	\$2,000,000	330	231	70
Samaritan Village	\$1,947,388	350	245	70
Volunteers of America	\$1,114,605	225	157	70
TOTAL	\$14,482,972	2589	1812	70%

4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance: Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

	Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households	Estimated # of Needing RRH (a)	Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b)	Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c)	Gap (a-(b+c))
Households without Children	2634	1977	1624	353	0
Households with Children	253	235	188	47	0
Total Homeless Veteran Households	2887	2212	1812	400	0

5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?

	All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH)			Chronically Homeless Veteran Households		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Households without Children	270	0	270	0	0	0
Households with Children	30	0	30	0	0	0
Total Households	300	0	300	0	0	0

Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes", please describe:

The NYC CCoC has identified a working definition of "Functional Zero" for January 2016 with the following goals:

- There will be no more than 300 homeless Veterans in NYC on any given night.
- There will be Zero (0) unsheltered homeless Veterans in NYC.
- Every homeless Veteran will have a housing plan within 2 weeks of entry to the homeless services system.
- Every homeless Veteran will be housed within 90 days of entry to the homeless services system.
- We will endeavor to right size the community's program resources for homeless Veterans in NYC as dictated by updated Point in Time and gap analysis data. Specifically, the CoC will strategize to reduce or reallocate HCHV contract and GPD beds based on actual need.

Additionally, the GPD programs' (which function as "Veterans shelters" in the five boroughs) rosters will be reviewed to prioritize Veterans in need of additional supports such as HUD VASH or SSVF services for housing placement.

Housing plans are being implemented and revised with all Veterans in shelter and transitional housing to end homelessness among Veterans while simultaneously working to prevent the recurrence of chronic homelessness amongst Veterans in NYC.

The CoC Veterans Task Force has established a goal of 163 Veteran housing placements per month in order to reach functional zero by January 1, 2016. This incorporates DHS shelters, GPD facilities, and contract residential care/HCHV units. These move-outs will be assisted by an average of 70 SSVF placements per month, HUD VASH lease-ups, direct GPD placements into permanent housing, shelter move-outs utilizing alternative re-housing resources such as NYC housing set-asides, DHS LINC program assistance, and other CoC resources.

The CoC Task Force will identify documentation standards and define "diligent effort" in regards to verifying persons/applicants who self-identify as homeless, but refuse shelter placement. This includes applicants to SSVF who present as "street homeless," sleeping on the subway or in their vehicles, or otherwise claim to reside in places not meant for human habitation. These guidelines will be defined and adopted to ensure that CoC resources are prioritized for households who are literally homeless and that programs focus on veterans identified on the PIT count who are most at need of RRH assistance.

The Task Force will request that representatives from the CoC and each agency identified in Section 1 agree in writing to abide by this plan, and any iteration moving forward, in order to reach the goals of "functional zero," improving coordinated assessment systems and service coordination, and commit to capacity building outlined herein.

6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System: Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC's coordinated assessment system (e.g., "All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then....). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:

- a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
- b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

The CoC is currently exploring alternatives to the VI-SPDAT for a NYC coordinated assessment tool. In the interim, all homeless Veterans are being triaged for Rapid Re-housing services across NYC, with SSVF staff at shelters across the five boroughs. Utilizing the surge funding of SSVF resources, staff funded by Priority 1 grants will triage homeless Veterans at the DHS 30th Street shelter, the primary entry point of single Veterans and adult families into the homeless system. This will provide access for Veterans at the onset of homelessness with immediate SSVF screenings, allow the COC to coordinate housing placement services with DHS and VHA, and will aid in the Rapid Rehousing efforts across the continuum. SSVF Priority 1 staff will function as representatives for all seven grantees in NYC, will utilize a common triage tool to rapidly identify VHA and SSVF eligible households, and be on-sight Monday through Friday, 9AM-9PM (or by appointment). Staff from all SSVF agencies, DHS and VHA will meet weekly to review progress, as outlined in Section 2.

7. Long-Term System Improvements: Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

- a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC's planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.
- b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.
- c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

The CoC will continue to host Mission: Home case conferences with direct service providers, shelter and transitional housing staff (to include GPD and HCHV contract housing), SSVF and HUD VASH representatives, DHS, HRA and other city personnel, HVRP providers, and other stakeholders from the CoC to track progress of assessments, housing plans and placement outcomes. The CoC Task Force will also work to incorporate other non-SSVF CoC members in the management efforts of the Mission: Home campaign to ensure that the NYC efforts to end Veteran homelessness are in actuality a broader, inclusive community project. Permanent Housing Placement outcomes will be reported to CoC leadership on a monthly basis to track progress and impact of coordination efforts on the PIT count, and to analyze real-time shelter census data with CoC Mission: Home figures. These meetings will occur on Tuesday mornings, with a rotating list of shelters and providers reviewed each week. As of January 2015, SSVF staff and a representative from the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) assist in the management of these case conferences, providing progress reports to the Task Force's Executive Committee and chairpersons. SSVF Priority One staff will also provide administrative support to these efforts in coordination with DHS.

SSVF providers will develop joint outreach materials for use in the 30th Street shelter and other locations across the CoC to bolster the messaging of Rapid Re-housing services and the goals of the CoC in ending Veteran homelessness. All NYC SSVF providers will agree to utilize these forms at shared outreach locations.

Joint Outreach and education teams are to be established to include staff from each SSVF agency, trained to deliver the same, consistent message and materials. These teams will be embedded in known hubs for homeless services across the community, in VISN 3 VHA and VBA offices, and other high-priority outreach locations. They will also be utilized to better inform community stakeholders of the CoC efforts to end Veteran homelessness and the capabilities of programs to serve Veteran households across the continuum. CoC member agencies will coordinate with these teams to maximize outreach efforts and services.

Trainings will be scheduled for SSVF staff along with other VHA homeless program employees and members of the CoC on a regular basis to bolster re-housing capabilities, with the intent of sharing housing resources and creative best practices among the providers to expedite RRH placements.

Providers will work with CoC taskforce leadership on accessing new low-income housing set-aside units within NYC housing programs and continue to improve Housing Match systems for filling existing vacancies. As per Mayor Bill De Blasio's guidance during the State of the City Address, Veterans will be prioritized for every housing resource in the NYC portfolio to support this plan. Moreover, Veterans are matched to these housing vacancies based on Mission: Home Case Conferencing discussions and identified need. SSVF providers will develop a unified pitch to landlords as a next step towards increasing agency access to permanent units across the five boroughs. Ongoing housing coordination across systems such as HUD-funded Housing, LINC services, NYCHA apartments, DHS landlords, NYC Human Resource administration programs, and broader housing identification campaigns are underway now.

8. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

The NYC CCoC has a wealth of resources at its disposal to coordinate the efforts to end Veteran homelessness by 2016, and a unique opportunity under the Mayor's Challenge and Mission: Home Campaign to leverage those resources with political will to recommend systems changes that can expedite the re-housing of homeless Veterans like never before. CoC Veterans Task Force Executive leadership will work continue to fine-tune planning efforts leading into the Priority-1 launch, and are committed to ongoing supports of public and private community partners to coordinate systems across the continuum. Challenges include incorporating all systems into the efforts of the CoC Task Force, given the breadth of programs across NYC, and the dearth of affordable housing in the community.